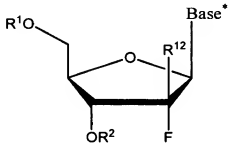
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

A detailed listing of all claims that are or were in the present application, irrespective of whether the claim(s) remains under examination in the application are presented below. The claims are presented in ascending order and each includes one status identifier.

1. - 11. (Canceled).

12. (Previously Presented) A method for the treatment of a host infected with a hepatitis C virus, comprising administering to the host infected with a hepatitis C virus an effective amount of a compound having the formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R^1 is H; mono-, di- or triphosphate; acyl; an amino acid ester; a carbohydrate; a peptide; or a pharmaceutically acceptable leaving group which when administered *in vivo* provides a compound wherein R^1 is H or phosphate;

R^2 is H; acyl; an amino acid ester; a carbohydrate; a peptide; or a pharmaceutically acceptable leaving group which when administered *in vivo* provides a compound wherein R^2 is H;

Base* is selected from the group consisting of adenine, N^6-alkylpurine, N^6-acylpurine, N^6-benzylpurine, N^6-halopurine, N^6-vinylpurine, N^6-acetylenic purine, N^6-acyl purine, N^6-hydroxyalkyl purine, N^6-alkylaminopurine, N^6-thioalkyl purine, N^2-alkylpurine, N^2-alkyl-6-thiopurine, thymine, cytosine, 5-fluorocytosine, 5-methylcytosine, 6-azapyrimidine, 6-azacytosine, 2- and/or 4-mercaptopyrimidine, uracil, 5-halouracil, 5-fluorouracil, C^5-alkylpyrimidine, C^5-benzylpyrimidine, C^5-halopyrimidine, C^5-vinylpyrimidine, C^5-acetylenic pyrimidine, C^5-acyl pyrimidine, C^5-hydroxyalkyl purine, C^5-amidopyrimidine, C^5-cyanopyrimidine, ,C^5-iodopyrimidine, C^6-iodo-pyrimidine, C^5-Br-vinyl pyrimidine, C^6-Br-vinyl pyrimidine, C^5-nitropyrimidine, C^5-amino-pyrimidine, N^2-alkylpurine, N^2-alkyl-6-thiopurine, 5-azacytidinyl, 5-azauracilyl, triazolopyridinyl, imidazolopyridinyl, pyrrolopyrimidinyl, pyrazolopyrimidinyl, guanine, hypoxanthine, 2,6-diaminopurine, and 6-chloropurine;

R^{12} is $C(Y^3)_3$; and
Y^3 is independently H or F.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein R^2 is H.

14. - 17. (Canceled).

18. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is in the form of a dosage unit.

19. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 18 wherein the dosage unit contains 50 to 1000 mg.

20. (Original) The method of claim 18 wherein the dosage unit is a tablet or capsule.

21. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the host is a human.

22. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is at least 85% by weight of the β–D-isomer.

23. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is at least 90% by weight of the β-D-isomer.

24. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is at least 95% by weight of the β-D-isomer.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the compound is in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt selected from the group consisting of a tosylate, methanesulfonate, acetate, citrate, malonate, tartarate, succinate, benzoate, ascorbate, α-ketoglutarate, α-glycerophosphate, formate, fumarate, propionate, glycolate, lactate, pyruvate, oxalate, maleate, salicylate, sulfate, nitrate, hydrobromate, hydrochloride, di-hydrochloride, and phosphoric acid salt.

26. (Original) The method of claim 25, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable salt is a hydrochloride salt.

27. - 43. (Canceled).

44. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein Y^3 is H.

45. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein R^2 is acyl.

46. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein R^2 is an amino acid ester.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein R^2 is a peptide.

48. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein R^2 is a carbohydrate.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein R^1 is hydrogen.

50. – 51. (Canceled).

52. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein Base* is cytosine.

53. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein Base* is thymine.

54. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein Base* is uracil.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50, wherein Base* is adenine.

56. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50, wherein Base* is guanine.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein acyl is of the formula C(O)R', wherein R' is a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein acyl is of the formula C(O)R', wherein R' is aryl, alkaryl, aralkyl, alkoxyalkyl or aryloxyalkyl.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein acyl is of the formula C(O)R', wherein R' is aryl.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein R^2 is acetyl.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 45, wherein R^2 is propionyl, butyryl, hexanoyl or 2-propenyl.

62. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein R^2 is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of glycine, alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, methionine, phenylalanine, tryptophan, proline, serine, threonine, cysteine, tyrosine, asparagine, glutamine, aspartate, glutamate, lysine, arginine and histidine.

63. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein R^2 is an ester of a naturally occurring or synthetic α, β, γ or δ amino acid.

64. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein R^2 is an ester of an amino acid in the L configuration.

65. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein R^2 is an ester of valine.

66. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 62, wherein the host is human.

67. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein:

R^1 is H;
R^2 is H, acyl or an amino acid ester; and
Y^3 is H.

68. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67, wherein Base* is cytosine.

69. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67, wherein Base* is thymine.

70. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67, wherein Base* is uracil.

71. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67, wherein R^2 is acyl.

72. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67, wherein R^2 is H.

73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67, wherein R^2 is an amino acid ester.

74. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71, wherein acyl is of the formula C(O)R', wherein R' is a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl.

75. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71, wherein acyl is of the formula C(O)R', wherein R' is aryl, alkaryl, aralkyl, alkoxyalkyl or aryloxyalkyl.

76. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71, wherein acyl is of the formula C(O)R', wherein R' is aryl.

77. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71, wherein R^2 is acetyl.

78. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 71, wherein R^2 is propionyl, butyryl, hexanoyl or 2-propenyl.

79. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67, wherein R^2 is an ester of an amino acid selected from the group consisting of glycine, alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine,

methionine, phenylalanine, tryptophan, proline, serine, threonine, cysteine, tyrosine, asparagine, glutamine, aspartate, glutamate, lysine, arginine and histidine.

80. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67, wherein R^2 is an ester of a naturally occurring or synthetic α, β, γ or δ amino acid.

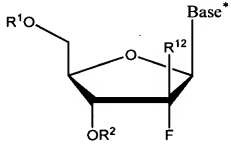
81. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67, wherein R^2 is an ester of an amino acid in the L configuration.

82. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67, wherein R^2 is an ester of valine.

83. (Canceled).

84. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 67 or 83 wherein the host is human.

85. (Previously Presented) A method for the treatment of a host infected with a hepatitis C virus, comprising contacting a hepatitis C virus in the host with a compound of the formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R^1 is H; mono-, di- or triphosphate; acyl; an amino acid ester; a carbohydrate; a peptide; or a pharmaceutically acceptable leaving group which when administered *in vivo* provides a compound wherein R^1 is H or phosphate;

R^2 is H; acyl; an amino acid ester; a carbohydrate; a peptide; or a pharmaceutically acceptable leaving group which when administered *in vivo* provides a compound wherein R^2 is H;

Base* is selected from the group consisting of adenine, N^6-alkylpurine, N^6-acylpurine, N^6-benzylpurine, N^6-halopurine, N^6-vinylpurine, N^6-acetylenic purine, N^6-acyl purine, N^6-hydroxyalkyl purine, N^6-alkylaminopurine, N^6-thioalkyl purine, N^2-alkylpurine, N^2-alkyl-6-thiopurine, thymine, cytosine, 5-fluorocytosine, 5-methylcytosine, 6-azapyrimidine, 6-azacytosine, 2- and/or 4-mercaptopyrimidine, uracil, 5-halouracil, 5-fluorouracil, C^5-

alkylpyrimidine, C^5-benzylpyrimidine, C^5-halopyrimidine, C^5-vinylpyrimidine, C^5-acetylenic pyrimidine, C^5-acyl pyrimidine, C^5-hydroxyalkyl purine, C^5-amidopyrimidine, C^5-cyanopyrimidine, ,C^5-iodopyrimidine, C^6-iodo-pyrimidine, C^5-Br-vinyl pyrimidine, C^6-Br-vinyl pyrimidine, C^5-nitropyrimidine, C^5-amino-pyrimidine, N^2-alkylpurine, N^2-alkyl-6-thiopurine, 5-azacytidinyl, 5-azauracilyl, triazolopyridinyl, imidazolopyridinyl, pyrrolopyrimidinyl, pyrazolopyrimidinyl, guanine, hypoxanthine, 2,6-diaminopurine, and 6-chloropurine;

R^{12} is $C(Y^3)_3$; and

Y^3 is independently H or F.

86. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85, wherein R^1 is H.

87. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85, wherein R^2 is H.

88. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 86, wherein R^2 is H.

89. (Previously Presented) The method claim 85, wherein Y^3 is H.

90. (Previously Presented) The method claim 86, wherein Y^3 is H.

91. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 87, wherein Y^3 is H.

92. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 88, wherein Y^3 is H.

93. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85, wherein R^2 is acyl.

94. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85, wherein R^2 is an amino acid ester.

95. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85, wherein R^2 is a peptide.

96. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85, wherein R^2 is a carbohydrate.

97. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein Base* is cytosine.

98. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein Base* is thymine.

99. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 51, wherein Base* is uracil.

100. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50, wherein Base* is adenine.

101. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 50, wherein Base* is guanine.

102. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 93, wherein acyl is of the formula C(O)R', wherein R' is a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl.

103. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 93, wherein acyl is of the formula C(O)R', wherein R' is aryl, alkaryl, aralkyl, alkoxyalkyl or aryloxyalkyl.

104. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 93, wherein acyl is of the formula C(O)R', wherein R' is aryl.

105. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 93, wherein R^2 is acetyl.

106. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 93, wherein R^2 is propionyl, butyryl, hexanoyl or 2-propenyl.

107. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85, wherein R^2 is an amino acid selected from the group consisting of glycine, alanine, valine, leucine, isoleucine, methionine, phenylalanine, tryptophan, proline, serine, threonine, cysteine, tyrosine, asparagine, glutamine, aspartate, glutamate, lysine, arginine and histidine.

108. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85, wherein R^2 is an ester of a naturally occurring or synthetic α, β, γ or δ amino acid.

109. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85, wherein R^2 is an ester of an amino acid in the L configuration.

110. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85, wherein R^2 is an ester of valine.

111. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85, wherein:

R^1 is H;
R^2 is H, acyl or an amino acid ester; and
Y^3 is H.

112. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is in the form of a dosage unit.

113. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 112 wherein the dosage unit contains 50 to 1000 mg.

114. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 112 wherein the dosage unit is a tablet or capsule.

115. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85, wherein the host is a human.

116. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is at least 85% by weight of the β–D-isomer.

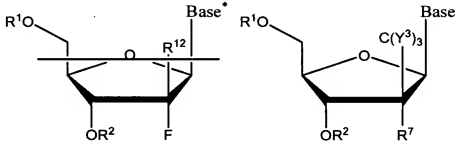
117. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is at least 90% by weight of the β-D-isomer.

118. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85, wherein the compound or pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof is at least 95% by weight of the β-D-isomer.

119. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 85, wherein the compound is in the form of a pharmaceutically acceptable salt selected from the group consisting of a tosylate, methanesulfonate, acetate, citrate, malonate, tartarate, succinate, benzoate, ascorbate, α-ketoglutarate, α-glycerophosphate, formate, fumarate, propionate, glycolate, lactate, pyruvate, oxalate, maleate, salicylate, sulfate, nitrate, hydrobromate, hydrochloride, di-hydrochloride, and phosphoric acid salt.

120. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 119, wherein the pharmaceutically acceptable salt is a hydrochloride salt.

121. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula:



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein:

R^1 is H; phosphate~~mono-, di- or triphosphate~~; acyl; an amino acid ester; a carbohydrate; a peptide; or a pharmaceutically acceptable leaving group which when administered *in vivo* provides a compound wherein R^1 is H or phosphate;

R^2 is phosphate; ~~H;~~ acyl; an amino acid ester; a carbohydrate; a peptide; or a pharmaceutically acceptable leaving group which when administered *in vivo* provides a compound wherein R^2 is H;

R^7 is halo;

Base~~Base*~~ is selected from the group consisting of adenine, N^6-alkylpurine, N^6-acylpurine, N^6-benzylpurine, N^6-halopurine, N^6-vinylpurine, N^6-acetylenic purine, N^6-acyl purine, N^6-hydroxyalkyl purine, N^6-alkylaminopurine, N^6-thioalkyl purine, N^2-alkylpurine, N^2-alkyl-6-thiopurine, thymine, cytosine, 5-fluorocytosine, 5-methylcytosine, 6-azapyrimidine, 6-azacytosine, 2- and/or 4-mercaptopyrimidine, uracil, 5-halouracil, 5-fluorouracil, C^5-alkylpyrimidine, C^5-benzylpyrimidine, C^5-halopyrimidine, C^5-vinylpyrimidine, C^5-acetylenic pyrimidine, C^5-acyl pyrimidine, C^5-hydroxyalkyl purine, C^5-amidopyrimidine, C^5-cyanopyrimidine, ,C^5-iodopyrimidine, C^6-iodo-pyrimidine, C^5-Br-vinyl pyrimidine, C^6-Br-vinyl pyrimidine, C^5-nitropyrimidine, C^5-amino-pyrimidine, N^2-alkylpurine, N^2-alkyl-6-thiopurine, 5-azacytidinyl, 5-azauracilyl, triazolopyridinyl, imidazolopyridinyl, pyrrolopyrimidinyl, pyrazolopyrimidinyl, guanine, hypoxanthine, 2,6-diaminopurine, and 6-chloropurine; and

~~R^{12} is $C(Y^3)_3$; and~~

Y^3 is independently H, F, Cl, Br or I.

122. (Canceled).

123 (New) The compound of claim 121, wherein R^7 is F.

124 (New) The compound of claim 123, wherein each Y^3 is H.

125. (New) The compound of claim 121, wherein R^1 and R^2 are acyl.

126. (New) The compound of claim 125, wherein acyl is of the formula C(O)R', wherein R' is a straight, branched or cyclic alkyl.

127. (New) The compound of claim 121, wherein R^1 and R^2 are propionyl, butyryl, hexanoyl or 2-propenyl.

128. (New) A method for the treatment of a hepatitis C virus infection in a host, comprising contacting a hepatitis C virus in the host with a compound of claim 121.

129. (New) A method for the treatment of a hepatitis C virus infection in a host, comprising contacting a cell in the host infected with a hepatitis C virus with a compound of claim 121.